### REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the allowability of claims 2-4, 7-17, 20-27 and 29-31. Claims 1-31 were previously pending. Claims 2, 7, 21 and 29 are herein cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, 8-20, 22-28 and 30-31 are presently pending.

## I. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 4, 14 - 15, 17, 25 - 26 and 29 - 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to antecedent basis issues. Claim 29 is herein cancelled, obviating the rejection as to this claim.

Applicant asserts that the amendments provided herein overcome all of the antecedent basis issues raised by the Examiner as the basis for the  $\S$  112 rejections. Accordingly, claims 4, 14 - 15, 17, 25 - 26 and 30 - 31 are asserted as patentable.

## II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S.P. No. 5,875,177 to Uriu. Claims 5 – 6, 18 – 19 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the Uriu reference and U.S.P. No. 5,450,394 to Gruber. These rejections are respectfully traversed as follows.

To expedite allowance, Applicant herein amends subject matter noted by the Examiner as allowable into the independent claims. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

# **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Submitted herewith please find one (1) sheets of replacement drawing in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of this drawing.

In the replacement drawing, Fig. 1, box 10a, has been corrected so that reference number "12b" reads "12a".

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Fig. 1

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### III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 48,232

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Telephone: (650) 625-8100

Facsimile: (650) 625-8110

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